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Michigan officials drop ethics cases against lawyers in Trump election lawsuit

By David Thomas

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Stefanie Lambert listens during a court hearing in Detroit, Michigan, U.S., October 20, 2022. REUTERS/Dieu-Nalio Chery/File Photo [Acquire Licensing Rights](#)

Aug 15 (Reuters) - Attorney regulators in Michigan on Monday dropped disciplinary charges against two lawyers who tried to overturn Joe Biden's 2020 election victory in the state.

The Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission said it was dismissing its disciplinary cases against [Emily Newman](#) and [Stefanie Lambert Junttila](#), who claimed in a failed lawsuit spearheaded by conservative lawyer Sidney Powell that Donald Trump's loss to Biden was tainted by widespread voter fraud.

The dismissal came the same day Fulton County, Georgia District Attorney Fani Willis [charged Trump, Powell and 17 others](#) with engaging in a criminal racketeering enterprise to overturn Trump's election defeat.

Trump has denied wrongdoing and accused prosecutors of a "witch hunt." Powell could not be immediately reached for comment.

The commission did not say why it was dropping its disciplinary cases against Newman and Junttila, which it brought after a judge said their Michigan lawsuit was frivolous.

Junttila's lawyer, Michael **Smith**, said in a statement that his client "won this bar grievance because she did not violate ethical rules."

An attorney for Newman did not immediately respond to requests for comment, nor did a commission official.

The 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in June mostly upheld sanctions imposed against Powell and other lawyers involved in the Michigan election case. But the court dismissed sanctions against Junttila and Newman, finding they did little work on the case.

Reuters reported in December that Junttila, a Detroit defense lawyer, had by 2020 become a key player in Trump's campaign to contest the election results. Earlier this month, Junttila pleaded not guilty to charges that she illegally accessed voting machines in Michigan.

Newman, who is based in Virginia, served as former chief of staff to the U.S. Agency for Global Media during the Trump administration.

Other lawyers involved in challenging Trump's loss to Biden have also faced attorney disciplinary charges related to their efforts to overturn the election results.

A state judge in February dismissed Texas bar officials' disciplinary case against Powell over her election lawsuits, finding "numerous defects" in the evidence. The state bar is appealing that ruling. Powell has denied violating ethics rules.

Rudy Giuliani, Trump's former personal lawyer, had his law license suspended in New York for making false voter fraud claims, and a Washington, D.C., attorney ethics committee last month recommended he be disbarred there. Giuliani, who was also charged in Monday's Georgia indictment, has denied any wrongdoing.

Lawyers Jeffrey Clark and John Eastman, two more defendants named in the Georgia indictment, are also fighting attorney disciplinary actions in Washington, D.C., and California, respectively, over their efforts to keep Trump in the White House. They have not responded to the criminal charges but have defended their actions on the disciplinary cases.

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